

that we reflect on the many accomplishments of Local 537 members and with appreciation that we commend the organization for its unparalleled service to our great state.

The history of Local 537 is a lesson in perseverance. The Pipefitters have seen decades of prosperity followed by years of declining job opportunities. In response, Local 537 members have become more versatile. They have borne witness not only to the advancements in the technology and materials on which their trade is dependent, but also to the evolution of workers' rights and labor unions. When hard times have fallen, the Pipefitters found work across the continent at the Trans-Alaskan pipeline, across borders to the oil fields of Canada and across state lines to construction jobs in New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—always to return when new opportunities arose at home.

With a membership of over 2,600, the jurisdiction of Local 537 covers Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties and extends into Plymouth and Worcester counties. From Boston to Lowell and Salem to Quincy, the work of Local 537 is visible within the interiors of the very landmarks that make our state and cities unique and recognizable. They have left their mark on the resident halls and academic facilities of Harvard University, Boston College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University; the piping systems in the Deer Island Water Treatment Plant and Weymouth Power Plant; and beneath the bleachers of the stadiums and arenas that house New England's proud sports teams.

Today, Local 537 retains the competitive edge and adaptive spirit of the original plumbers, gas fitters and steam fitters who first organized themselves over a century ago. The Pipefitters are a true Massachusetts institution and we thank the organization for its numerous contributions to the Commonwealth.

CONGRATULATING JULIE YOUNG, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 HAROLD W. MCGRAW, JR. PRIZE IN EDUCATION

### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Ms. Julie Young upon receiving the 2011 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Ms. Young is highly regarded for her hard work and dedication to improving education in this country and for helping to create a smarter, better educated world.

Ms. Young is President and CEO of the nation's largest and most influential virtual program: Florida Virtual School. Her journey began with a love for teaching and a dedication to learning that dates back to childhood. Today, she is passionate about the positive impact that Florida Virtual School has on thousands of families. I have been fortunate to work with Ms. Young as the Florida Virtual School has grown from 77 students in 1997 to its current enrollment of over 130,000 K–12 students.

Ms. Young's interest in combining technology and learning began when she served

as a teacher trainer for a partnership between her school district and IBM. That experience also ignited her with the vision to apply proven business principles to education. She interacts regularly with business, education, and policy leaders across the nation to shape the future of learning, and she sees Florida Virtual School playing a significant role.

Ms. Young is also excited about the opportunities online education and blended learning models have provided for the profession. These innovations help to retain great teachers who might have otherwise left the field. She takes particular pleasure in identifying and growing leaders.

In addition to directing the work of 1,500 employees, Ms. Young is a frequent national speaker. She serves on the Board of the United States Distance Learning Association, International Association for K–12 Online Learning, Florida Learning Alliance, Florida TaxWatch Center for Educational Performance and Accountability, Florida Sterling Council Board of Directors, K–12 Blackboard Advisory Council Member, and Microsoft K–12 Advisory Council Member Assistant. She was also recognized by Technology & Learning Magazine as one of the Top 30 influencers in Ed Tech, along with Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. In 2003, she was inducted into the United States Distance Learning Association "Hall of Fame."

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate and applaud Ms. Young for her work. She is most deserving of the 2011 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education as she inspires others to follow in her footsteps.

### HONORING ALICE FINCH LEE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with all Alabamians in sending warm personal congratulations to a beloved member of our community, Miss Alice Finch Lee, who celebrates her 100th birthday on Sunday, September 11, 2011. "Miss Alice's" compassion for others is matched only by her determination for justice. Her life-long dedication to civility and fairness is a credit to our state.

Monroeville, Alabama not only wears the crown of literary capital of our state with its ties to such giants of letters as Truman Capote and Nelle Harper Lee, among others, but it is also home to a one-of-a-kind legal lion.

Miss Alice grew up in a tight-knit family accustomed to making a difference. Her father, the late A.C. Lee, was a respected businessman and attorney. He owned the local newspaper, The Monroe Journal, while also practicing law. His inscrutable reputation for fairness is believed to have inspired Miss Alice's younger sister, Nelle, in crafting the character Atticus Finch in her world famous novel To Kill a Mockingbird.

Miss Alice was a quick study, joining her father at the age of 18 in running the newspaper. It wasn't long before she also acquired an interest in law. Her decision to attend law

school, a move strongly supported by her father, was a bold one considering women were not often seen in the legal profession during the 1930's and 40's. Undeterred, she graduated from the Birmingham School of Law and passed Alabama Bar in 1943.

It was Monroeville's good fortune that Miss Alice came back home and partnered with her father in practicing law in her hometown. Joining what is now considered to be one of the oldest law firms in Alabama, Barnett, Bugg, Lee & Carter, Miss Alice made a name for herself as a calm but reliable voice for equality and an advocate for the disadvantaged. Never seeking attention or accolade, she is best known for her uncommon generosity. A recent newspaper profile accordingly dubbed Miss Alice as "Atticus Finch in a skirt."

At the tender young age of 100, Miss Alice still works in her Monroeville law office attending to her clients' needs on a daily basis and giving each the full measure of her attention. When I personally looked in on her last week she was busy reviewing a contract and graciously gave me a few minutes to wish her a happy birthday.

She has been called a trailblazer, a role model and an advocate for what is right. In South Alabama, we are also proud to call her our friend. Miss Alice, on your 100th birthday, we wish you much joy and happiness, with a heartfelt prayer for many more to come.

### IN CELEBRATION OF CONSTITUTION WEEK

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2011*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Constitution Week.

Founded in 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a volunteer women's service organization devoted to promoting patriotism, preserving history, and educating future generations. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to devote the week of September 17th–23rd for the observance of Constitution Week and to commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed this resolution into law the following year. This year marks the 224th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution.

The Constitution is much more than a historic document; it serves as a guide for our country and represents our commitment to the principles of freedom, liberty, and the unalienable rights of every American. It is woven into the very fabric of our great Nation—elected officials take oaths to support and defend it; citizens are free because of it; and our government design and functions exist because of it. Constitution Week provides us with a moment to pause and reflect upon our country's founding and renew our duty to protect and defend the Constitution.

I am thankful for DAR's efforts to promoting Constitution Week and raising awareness about the importance of our Constitution and our Nation's rich history. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me celebrating Constitution Week.